

Full title of the Project: Diversion of Forest Land for construction of Bhavali Pumped Storage Project (1500 MW) in Thane & Nasik Districts of Maharashtra State

File No.: FP/ MH/HYD/153240/2022

Date of Proposal: 06/03/2022

(Sr. No. 19 of Checklist)

APPENDIX(SEE RULE 6)

FORM –‘A’

**FORM FOR SEEKING PRIOR APPROVAL UNDER SECTION 2 (ii) OF
THE VAN (SANRAKSHAN EVAM SAMVARDHAN) ADHINIYAM, 1980
THE PROPOSAL BY THE STATE GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER
AUTHORITIES**

PART-II

(TO BE FILLED BY THE CONCERNED DY. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS)

State Serial No. of the Proposal:

7. Location of the Project/ Scheme:

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------|
| (i) | State/ Union Territory: | Maharashtra |
| (ii) | District: | Thane (iii) Forest Division: Shahapur |
| (iv) | Area of Forest Land proposed for diversion (In Ha.): | 181.45 Ha. |
| (v) | Legal status of Forest: | RF/PF/Deemed RF |
| (vi) | Density of vegetation: | 0.1 to < 0.7 |
| (vii) | Species- wise (Scientific Names) and diameter class- wise enumeration of trees (to be enclosed. In case of irrigation/ hydel projects enumeration at FRL, FRL-2 m and FRL-4 m also to be enclosed): | |

Details of trees to be felled is attached herewith this Part II.

- (viii) Brief note on vulnerability of the Forest area to erosion:

The project involves construction two new reservoirs. However, these reservoirs will be constructed at the place of natural depressions. No cutting or levelling of land is required. Further, the Project Proponent has proposed a site-specific CAT Plan, which will be executed in coordination with and under supervision of Forest Department. Hence, the Project Area and its surrounding Forest Area is unlikely to be vulnerable to erosion.

- (ix) Approximate distance of proposed site for diversion from boundary of forest:

The project is situated inside and outside of Forest Boundaries falling within jurisdiction of Shahapur and West Nasik Forest Divisions.



(x) Whether forms part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc.? (If so, the details of the area and comments of the Chief Wildlife Warden to be annexed):

The proposed project does not form the part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary. However, recently the Government of Maharashtra has declared Gat No. 42 of village Jamunde, Tehsil Igatpuri, District Nasik as a part of Igatpuri Conservation Reserve.

(xi) Whether any rare/ endangered/ unique species of flora and fauna found in the area? (If so, the details thereof):

Presence of wild animals like hyaena, wolf, jackal, leopard, ungulates like Nilgai, Four Horned antelopes, spotted Deer, Barking Deer and numerous species of avifauna in the forest as well as in the revenue areas is not uncommon.

(xii) Whether any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in the area? (If so, details thereof with NOC from the Competent Authority, if required):

No any protected archaeological/ heritage site/ defense establishment or any other important monument is located in or in the vicinity of the area proposed for diversion.

8. Whether the requirement of Forest Land as proposed by the User Agency in Col. No. 2 of Part-I is unavoidable and barest minimum for the project? If no, recommended area item- wise with details of alternative examined:

Yes. The Pumped Storage Project is essentially a site-specific project. Initially, the proposed site was identified and same has been accepted by the Government of Maharashtra; vide Memorandum of Understanding dated 14/02/2021.

The requirement of Forest Land as proposed by the User Agency in Col. No. 2 of Part I of Form A, is, thus, found unavoidable and barest minimum for the project.

9. Whether any work in violation of the Act has been carried out? (Yes/ No). If yes, details of the same including period of work done, action taken on erring officials. Whether work done in violation is still in progress?

No. The work has not been carried out by the Project Proponent in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

10. Details of Compensatory Afforestation Scheme:

- (i) Details of non- forest area identified for Compensatory Afforestation, its distance from adjoining forest, number of patches, size of each:
Annexed hereto at Page No. 30
- (ii) Map showing area identified for Compensatory Afforestation and adjoining forest boundaries:
Annexed hereto at Page No. 30

- (iii) Detailed Compensatory Afforestation Scheme including species to be planted, Implementing Agency, Time Schedule, Cost Structure, etc.:
Annexed hereto at Page No. 30
- (iv) Total Financial Outlay for Compensatory Afforestation Scheme:
Annexed hereto at Page No. 30
- (v) Certificate from Competent Authority regarding suitability of area identified for Compensatory Afforestation and from management point of view (To be signed by the concerned Dy. CF.):
Annexed hereto at Page No. 30

11. Site Inspection Report of the Dy. CF (to be enclosed) especially highlighting facts asked in Col. No. 7 (xi & xii), 8 & 9 above:

The Site Inspection Report is annexed hereto with the proposal.

12. Division Profile:Shahapur Division

- (i) Geographical area of the district: 135778.00 Ha.
- (ii) Forest Area of the District: 56799.90 Ha.
- (iii) Total forest area diverted since 1980 with no. of cases: 4427.5996 Ha. /37
- (iv) Total compensatory afforestation as on the date: 481.16 Ha.
- (a) Forest Land, including Penal CA: 1209.136 Ha.
- (b) Non- forest land: 36.605 Ha.
- (v) Progress of Compensatory Afforestation as on the date: 481.16 Ha.
- (a) Forest Land: 1209.136 Ha.
- (b) Non- forest land: 36.605 Ha.

13. Specific recommendations of the Dy.CF. for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with reasons:

The proposal is recommended for acceptance on following grounds:

1. Demandforthe powerisonsteadyrise with an average annual rate of 8-9%in thecountry.The project aims at augmentation of presentinstalledcapacity of hydro power in the country by 1500 MW. The Government of Maharashtra has executed Memorandum of Understanding with the Project Proponent for development of the extant project.
2. The Hydro Energy Project is an established, proven and cost-effective technology for clean and cheap electricity. Demandforthe powerisonsteadyrisein theState of Maharashtra.The project has potential to bridge the gap between demand and supply of electricity in Maharshtra.
3. The project will generate significant employment opportunities for the people of Maharashtra for the decades together and will create infrastructure facilities to accelerate socio-economic development of the region.

4. The project is site specific and requirement of Forest Land is assessed to barest minimum & unavoidable for the project. Hence, recommended for acceptance.

Date: 07 / 02 / 2025

Place: Shahapur.

Office Seal:



Dipesh Malhotra, IFS
Dy. Conservator of Forests
Shahapur Forest Division
Shahapur